GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5938
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002
EXPORT OF FOOD PRODUCTS WITH CODEX STANDARD
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been initiated to improve the quality of indigenous food products being exported specialy to match with 'Codex' Standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Government of India had enacted the Export (Quality Controland Inspection) Act, 1963 under Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the objective of sound development of export trade through quality control. The Act empowers the Government of India to notify commodities and their minimum standards for export, generally international standards or standards of importing countries as well as suitable machinery for inspection and quality control. Under the provisions of this Act, export Certification has been made mandatory by the Government of India for products like marine products, milk products, meat products, egg products and honey due to the stringent health and safety requirements of the importing countries with a view to avoiding rejection. Export Inspection Council, as official export inspection and certification body under Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been designated for the task of inspection and certification. In this regard, Food Safety Management Systems(FSMS) basedcertification is followed, which combines products certification integrated with quality management systems based approach including Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP),Good Hygiene Practices (GHP), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point(HACCP). Under this system, the products being exported must conform to :

(a) National Standards of the Importing country/International Standards (namely Codex Standards);

(b) Contractual specifications agreed between the foreign buyer and the exporter provided the same conform to the Health or any other requirements of importing countries.

(c) In the absence of (a & b), the minimum standards notified for each commodity.

In addition, Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export DevelopmentAuthority (APEDA)provide financial assistance under their schemes for improvement in the quality of food products so that indigenous food products can match with international standards such as Codex.

(c): Does not arise.